

CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 16
7/28/2016



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as good. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Lillinonah, Breakneck Pond (great hike in location), Griggs Pond, Lake Waramaug, West Hill Pond, Park Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Stillwater Pond, Winchester Lake, Squantz Pond, Maltby Lake 2 & 3, Wood Creek Pond, Pachaug Pond, Ball Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden) and Halls Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Beach Pond (fair at best, not much size with a 2.56 lbunker and average fish weight of 1 lb apiece), Mansfield hollow Reservoir (fair fishing, 4.62 lbunker), Pachaug Pond (good afternoon/evening tourney, 6.52 lb & 6.22 lb lunkers, fish averaged a bit over 2 lbs each), Rogers Lake (good, 5.6 lbunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good for a day club, with 5.54 lb & 4.85 lb lunkers, but slow for two night clubs, with 5.44 lb, 5.40 lb & 2.35 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good, 5.75 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (slow day with a 4.39 lbunker, also slow at night), and Connecticut River (fair for largemouth, 4.33 lb & 3.68 lb lunkers).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing was good in the Connecticut River and Housatonic River (flyfishing with a popper). If still water is your fancy, smallies are hitting in Mashapaug Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, and Lake Lillinonah.

Tournament angler reports Candlewood Lake (fair to good for a day club, fair for two night clubs, 4.75 lb & 3.47 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (slow-fair night, 5.02 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (some in the bags), Beach Pond (few), and Connecticut River (fair to good, 2.68 lb lunker).

Thermal Refuges are Critical

Thermal refuges are places where cold groundwater seeps or drains into a waterbody. These areas have much lower water temperature than the surrounding main waterbody.

Between June 15 and September 15 mainstem water temperatures can be above lethal limits for trout. Refuge area in medium to large rivers like the Naugatuck, Salmon, Housatonic, and Shetucket, are critical for trout to survive the summertime warm water temperatures.

To protect the trout, all fishing is prohibited in and around all refuges as indicated by signage (below). Please do not disturb the trout that are seeking refuge within these areas and report any violations to DEEP law enforcement immediately 860-424-3333.



NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good. The CT River and the Housy were producing. Large golden shiners along weed lines have been the ticket for some good sized “Northerns”. Other water to try include Lake Lillinonah, Winchester Lake, and Bantam Lake.

KOKANEE are being caught at West Hill Pond (3 colors). Beads, Mooselook Wobblers, DB Smelt, Flash King lures (blue & silver) are producing. Try fishing corn over lights at nights.

WALLEYE fishing is picking up a bit (late evening) and decent fish are being caught at Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, and Beach Pond.

CHANNEL CATFISH are providing solid action on live shiners, chicken livers, and chunk bait from the Connecticut River Hartford to Haddam, Lake Wintergreen, Birge Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, and Freshwater Pond.

PANFISH are providing excellent summer time action. A simple worm and bobber will work best. Suggested locations include: Tyler Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Amos Pond, Barber Pond, Baummer Pond, Black Rock Lake, Burr Pond, Dooley Pond, Halls Pond, Lake of Isles, Lower Fulton Park Pond and McGrath Park Pond. Check out and download the FREE-CARE “Let’s Go Fishing” Workbook available on the DEEP website at www.ct.gov/deep/care

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – There are big trout around for anglers to catch now deep into the coldwater below the thermoclines. Some lakes to try include: East Twin Lake, Mashapaug Lake (riggers @ 20-25’), Lake McDonough (7-8 colors), Valley Falls Park Pond, West Hill Pond, Highland Lake (4 colors), Beach Pond (early @ 20-25’), Long Pond (Kobra 14), Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors, troll @ 2mph), Mohawk Pond, Beach Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock) & Bigelow Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Rivers **remain at or near record low levels statewide (see stream flow graphic on page 4)**. In general, trout fishing will be fair as water temperatures in many of our rivers and streams will be at or above lethal limits for trout. Good trout water this time of year can be found at the West Branch Farmington and the Mill River (Fairfield), West and East Branches of Salmon Brook (Granby and Glastonbury), and Salmon River.

Farmington River - Fishing continues to be very good to excellent. West Branch flows are clear and **low** (currently 103 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding a meager 5 cfs). Water temperatures remain in the low to mid 60’s°F as the majority of the flow in the river is from the bottom-release from the West Branch Reservoir.

ROCK SNOT-update



***Cymbella janischii* is in bloom.**

The West Branch Farmington River has 3 species of “Rock Snot”. Two species of “Didymo” are essentially restricted to the section of river from Hogback Dam to the confluence with the Still River in Riverton. Didymo must have very cold water AND little to no phosphorous in the water (*although this summer with little input from the Still River these diatoms have been found as far downstream as the Ovation Pool in New Hartford*).

The third species, *Cymbella janischii*, (native to the Pacific Northwest and not typically found east of the Rocky Mountains) was very abundant (summer 2015) from New Hartford upstream to Peoples State Forest and is present again now. *Cymbella* can tolerate warmer water temperatures and higher levels of nutrients (conditions found in many of our rivers and streams) and has a high potential to be spread to other places.

When fishing the Farmington River we ask all anglers to be extra diligent about cleaning and drying their waders before fishing other trout waters.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-24, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Rusty Spinner (#14-24), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #18-22, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, midday), and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid).

For something different, try “mousing”- using a mouse pattern or other large popper fished across deep pools after dark can produce a fish of a lifetime.

Housatonic River – Water temperatures will be rising for the foreseeable future (low flow and hot sunny days). As such, many trout will be seeking out the tributaries and thermal refuges while water temps are out of their comfort zone. These areas are critical to their survival when going gets rough. Water is clear with water temperatures are currently in the 70’s with flows at a **very low level** (115 CFS at Falls Village and 147 CFS at Gaylordsville). **Smallmouth Bass fishing is at its peak this time of year.**

Hatches/patterns: The latest major hatch is the “white fly”. Reports are these large mayflies are very abundant creating some “white out” conditions providing excellent fly fishing, but mostly in the late evening for trout. Try poppers for Smallmouth Bass, Fallfish, or Pike during the day, they will provide non-stop action and help hone your skills. Some favored prey items of smallmouth are hellgrammites, crayfish, and juvenile fallfish. All can be mimicked with very large flies so upsize your rod, line, and fly and see what happens (go big or go home).

Other flies include: Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10) will produce some great fishing. Alder flies are very active during hot days. Additional bugs include the Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Light Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Black Caddis, Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening) are on the water.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers. Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam, located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The

FREE FISHING!! Our second and final Free Fishing License day for 2016 will be Saturday, AUGUST 13.

Fish with your family or friends or join DEEP at Fort Trumbull State Park for the NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event. **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish on this day.**

The free 1-day license for fishing on August 13, 2016 will be available starting on July 27, 2016. They can be obtained through our convenient online at www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing (now mobile friendly!) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#)), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2016 CT angler’s Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



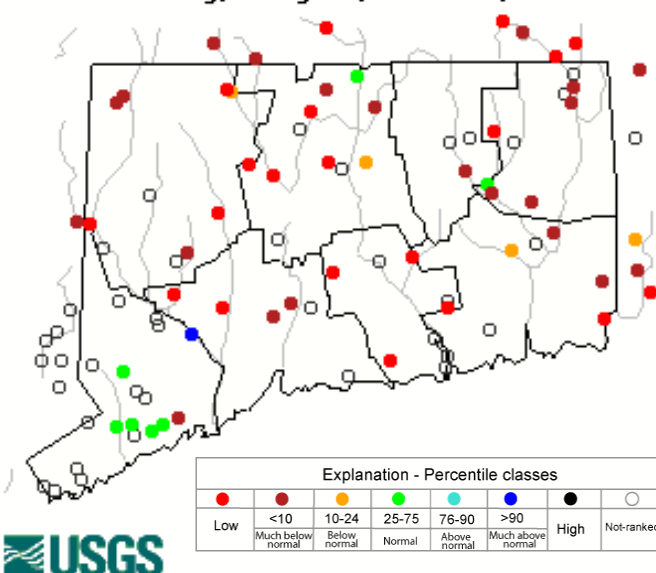
refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 15.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Top water catches of **STRIPED BASS** in the lower river continue on live bunker or live eels. Anglers from Hartford to Middletown report catching **CATFISH** in the holes. **CARP** including some nice “mirror” and “fantail” have been caught between Middletown and Haddam. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are putting on a good show in the northern part of the River.

Stream flow conditions as of 7/28/2016

Thursday, July 28, 2016 16:30ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

Attention:

OUTDOOR GROUPS/CLUBS/BUSINESSES.

DEEP would like to invite you to attend our 2 upcoming **Hunting and Fishing Days**, September 10, 2016 at Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Franklin and September 24, 2016. Both events are from 10 am to 4 pm.

There is no charge for the event and you can showcase your group, business, organization with a tabletop display.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Fortin at laurie.fortin@ct.gov.

For more information on the event go to: www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday.

NOTES & NOTICES:

CT FISHIN' TIPS is our monthly e-newsletter dedicated to providing information, tips and pointers about fishing in Connecticut. Get CT Fishin' Tips delivered automatically to your in box by subscribing at www.ct.gov/deep/newslettersubscription

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill continues – lake currently remains down approximately 4 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

BRANFORD RIVER (boat launch). The Branford River state boat launch will be closed for renovations beginning Monday, July 18, 2016. This closure is currently expected to last to November 14, 2016. Alternative nearby launch sites include the Guilford Town boat launch and the East River State boat launch, both in Guilford.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

CRYSTAL LAKE (Ellington, swim event). The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from **8:00 am to 8:30 am** on **Sunday, July 24**, in the southern end of the lake in front of Sandy Beach.

DOOLEY POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (expected to last to September 1). The state boat launch is currently closed.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (began September 2015). Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

LAKE ZOAR (waterski event). A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, July 23**, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

PHOTO CONTEST: Do you have the next Angler's Guide cover shot? Email us your high quality (high resolution) photos at Deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov and include [photo contest](#) in the subject line.

NEW! Youth Fishing Passport [Fishing Challenge Scorecard](#): Download the new scorecard for your Youth Fishing Passport Holder on the program web page at www.ct.gov/deep/yfp. Top anglers will receive a great prize pack of fishing gear.



NEW! Join us in celebrating [150 Years of Natural Resource Conservation in Connecticut](#)! Throughout 2016, we will look back at our history and also look ahead to the future of natural resources in our state. Follow along with the celebration and participate in [special events](#) to be held year-long. Check out our historical timeline: [Connecticut Bureau of Natural Resources Through the Years](#).

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html
www.ndbc.noaa.gov/

marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound.

Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound (in early July, juvenile humpback whales have been spotted on the New York side of the sound), please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Anglers may catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

SEA TURTLES: [See a Tangled Turtle? Call the Hotline!](#) 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107

This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

STURGEON. There are many reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the mouth). A common spring behavior for these **endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)**...as they attempt to gulp air for their primitive swim bladder. Anglers are incidentally snagging or catching these sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please release all sturgeon with unavoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a protected species. Thank you.

STRIPED BASS has remained good especially during the evening and morning hours. Most of the reefs throughout the sound are starting to see larger fish. Live lining eels or bunker while drifting over the reefs has been producing positive results. If you're able to find bunker and bass in the same area, try the 'snag and drop' technique. Once you snag a bunker just open the bail and let it run, the bass can't resist the temptation. Striper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal,

Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Westbrook, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Night fishing is good at the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Harkness Memorial Park.**

STRIPED BASS ANGLERS FISHING IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS - are advised that the state of Rhode Island has adopted the following regulations pertaining to striped bass. These regulations apply to all Rhode Island state lands and waters including the waters around Block Island: **“Any person recreationally harvesting a striped bass thirty-four (34) inches or larger shall at the time of harvest have the right pectoral fin removed at a point as close to the body of the fish as possible.”**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing has been solid (good numbers of fish) throughout Long Island Sound. The walls at New Haven and West Haven have been producing. Deep water (80-100) off Hatchett Reef and Black Point is also fishing well, along with Long Sand Shoal. The best bite has been between the CT and Thames Rivers in 40 -100 feet. You have got to put your time in and be mobile moving from spot to spot. It's time to start fishing deeper to improve your chances for a “doormat” fluke. Fluke spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Lower Thames River channel, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport, NY, Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, off the **mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands**, and across over to Port Jefferson, NY. **Minimum size is 18 inches and the daily creel limit is 5 fish per person.**

BLACK SEA BASS fishing continues to improve in deeper water especially on structure. If you are fishing in water deeper than 100', barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See Fishsmart.org for more information.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good to excellent throughout Long Island Sound. Even anglers fishing from shore are having very productive trips. If you don't have access to a boat, make your way to an enhanced shore fishing site where you are allowed to harvest fish at 9". The best action at these sites has been at Meigs Point in Hammonasset State Park, Sherwood Island State Park and Saint Mary's by the Sea in Bridgeport. For more information on the Enhanced Shore Fishing Program, visit the DEEP website at: Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities

WEAKFISH reports have started to decline, but there are still a few anglers catching keeper size fish, especially from New Haven to Bridgeport. Key successful areas have been New Haven Harbor and off Milford.

BLUEFISH fishing has been red hot with large sized blues being reported at The Race and Plum Gut. Diamond jigs, trolling parachute jigs or umbrella rigs, and using fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks have all been effective. Other bluefish spots include the Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island along with the Stratford Shoal Housatonic River area.

HICKORY SHAD fishing has slowed down a bit from last week. However, there are still a few fish around in some areas. It may still be worth a try at Black Hall and Lieutenant River as well as the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, all in Old Lyme.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing is about as good as it can get and can be found just about anywhere in Long Island Sound. Anglers have been reporting record numbers of these 'poor man's lobster' being caught while drifting for summer flounder and black sea bass. New Haven Harbor has been particularly good and

you can even catch them from shore at Sandy Point. They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. If you haven't given them a shot as a meal yet, now's your chance.

BLACKFISH (TAUTOG) fishing has been slow recently. There have not been many positive reports from anglers trying find a few 'taug' during the summer season. One angler did report a successful trip while snorkeling from shore spearfishing. Remember that during the summer season (July and August), the creel limit is two fish.

WHITE PERCH fishing remains good for those dedicated and patient anglers. Spend some time relaxing in any coastal estuary with a little piece of bait (shrimp/sandworm) on a small hook, enjoying some jumbo white perch on the flood tide. Wow, they are good eating. Perch are found in shallow water at any estuary, tidal river and cove along Connecticut's shoreline. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River and Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier**), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Grass Shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.

BLUE CRAB fishing is good. Crabs are done with the first shed and are a bit larger now. Please remember, all egg bearing females must be released **without avoidable injury**. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab. Please release all diamondback terrapins caught in your traps. The turtles must be released **without avoidable injury**.

***For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2016 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.*

***Go online, click:** [2016 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)*

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.